

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing **20 JUN 2005**
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
1003543

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/AU2005/000549

International filing date (day/month/year)
18 April 2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
19 April 2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
Int. Cl. ⁷ C02 1/48

Applicant

UDEN, Robert

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000549

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000549

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 3, 6-12	YES
	Claims 1-2, 4-5	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 6-9	YES
	Claims 1-5, 10-12	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-12	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

The present invention is directed to a water conditioner that comprises a plate located in a pipe wherein the plate has a number of means on at least one side of it that causes the water to follow a torturous flow path through the pipe.

The following documents are the closest prior art to the present invention:

D1 - US 4999106

D2 - WO 1995/008064

D3 - US 6701963

D4 - US 6186179

D5 - WO 1995/019504

Novelty and Inventive Step (claims 1-12)

Document D1 (see especially figures 2 and 3) teaches a liquid conditioning apparatus including a plate comprising inserts (posts) extending up from the plate located in a pipe, wherein the inserts are parallel to the direction of fluid flow.

The features defined by claim 3 is not inventive, as it is within the knowledge of a person skilled in the art to provide the inserts on both sides of the plate such that the posts pass through the plate. Further, Claims 10-12 are not inventive in light of common general knowledge in the art. It would be readily apparent to a person skilled in the art to provide means to direct the fluid flow to the central portion of the conditioning means so that the majority of the flow will be conditioned, and the truncated conical means is simply a way of achieving this. It is also well known in the art of water conditioning to use an EMF to apply power to the apparatus, and therefore claim 12 also lacks an inventive step.

Each of the documents D2-D5 anticipate the features of claim 1, at least, by disclosing flow conditioners that include pipes with plates having means which cause the water flow to adopt a torturous or convoluted flow path through the pipe, and thereby become conditioned.

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Supplemental Box - Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: Item 2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Industrial Applicability

The invention defined in claims 1-12 is industrially applicable.